

an annular, protruded wall, which is spaced outwardly from an outer periphery of the spray nozzle, which is protruded forwardly, and which surrounds an exit of the spray nozzle.

2. (Amended- Clean Copy) The instrument of claim 1, wherein an wall surface extending between the outer periphery of the spray nozzle and the annular, protruded wall is defined by a tapered surface or a curved, concave surface.

3. (Amended- Clean Copy) The instrument of claim 1, wherein an wall surface extending between the outer periphery of the spray nozzle and the annular, protruded wall is defined by a planar surface perpendicular to an axis of the spray nozzle.

4. (Amended- Clean Copy) The instrument of claim 1, wherein a wall surface of the annular, protruded wall is parallel to an axis of the spray nozzle.

6. (Amended- Clean Copy) A cap member to be provided to a leading end of an endoscopic spraying device, the cap member comprising:

a cylindrical portion defining an interior of the cap member; and

a leading end wall at a leading end of the cylindrical portion, the leading end wall separating the interior of the cap member from an exterior thereof, the leading end wall having an spray nozzle communicating the interior with the exterior, the leading end wall including:

a first wall surface in the exterior of the cap member, the first wall surface extending radially outwardly from an outer periphery of the spray nozzle; and

a second wall surface in the exterior of the cap member, the second wall surface extending longitudinally outwardly from an outer periphery of the first wall surface.

Please enter the following new claims for consideration by the Examiner:

---17. An endoscopic spraying instrument in which liquid passed through a liquid supplying tube and a rotatably guiding groove disposed at a leading end side of the supplying tube is rotated about a central axis within a liquid rotating chamber disposed at a leading end side of the rotatably guiding groove and discharged forwardly from an ejection hole configured to spray a liquid therethrough, the ejection hole formed in a leading end wall of the liquid rotating chamber, the instrument comprising:

an annular, protruded wall, which is spaced outwardly from an outer periphery of the ejection hole, which is protruded forwardly, and which surrounds an exit of the ejection hole.

18. The instrument of claim 17, wherein a wall surface extending between the outer periphery of the ejection hole and the annular, protruded wall is defined by a tapered surface or a curved, concave surface.

19. The instrument of claim 17, wherein a wall surface extending between the outer periphery of the ejection hole and the annular, protruded wall is defined by a planar surface perpendicular to an axis of the ejection hole.

20. The instrument of claim 17, wherein a wall surface of the annular, protruded wall is parallel to an axis of the ejection hole.

21. The instrument of claim 17, wherein a wall surface of the annular, protruded wall is defined by a forwardly spread surface or a forwardly constricted surface.

22. A cap member for a leading end of an endoscopic spraying device, the cap member comprising:

a cylindrical portion defining an interior of the cap member; and

a leading end wall at a leading end of the cylindrical portion, the leading end wall separating the interior of the cap member from an exterior thereof, the leading end wall having an ejection hole configured to spray a liquid therethrough and further configured to provide for the communication of the interior with the exterior, the leading end wall including:

a first wall surface in the exterior of the cap member, the first wall surface extending radially outwardly from an outer periphery of the ejection hole; and

a second wall surface in the exterior of the cap member, the second wall surface extending longitudinally outwardly from an outer periphery of the first wall surface.

23. The cap of claim 22, wherein the first wall surface is conical.

24. The cap of claim 22, wherein the first wall surface is curved in section.

25. The cap of claim 22, wherein the first wall surface is planar in section.

26. The cap of claim 22, wherein the first wall surface is planar.

27. The cap of claim 22, wherein the second wall surface extends radially inwardly from the periphery of the first wall surface.

28. The cap of claim 22, wherein the second wall surface extends radially outwardly from the periphery of the first wall surface.---

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants wish to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the telephone interview of December 9, 2002. During the telephone interview, Applicant's Attorney William Boshnick spoke to the Examiner concerning the rejected claims of the present invention. During the telephone interview, Applicant's attorney argued, *inter alia*, that the applied FISCHER reference fails to teach

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or disclose a spray nozzle, as recited in dependent claims 13 and 15, nor does it teach or disclose an ejection hole configured to spray a liquid therethrough, as recited in dependent claims 14 and 16. Upon reviewing the applied FISHER reference, and consulting a dictionary as to the meaning of “spray,” the Examiner agreed that these features are absent from FISCHER, and agreed to allow independent claims 1 and 6, and all claims depending therefrom, if either of the features of claims 13 and 15, or 14 and 16 were included into these independent claims.

REMARKS

Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-4 and 6 will have been amended, claims 13-16 will have been canceled, and claims 17-28 will have been added. Claims 1-12 and 17-28 will be pending in the present application. Applicants note that independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to respectively incorporate the limitations of respective allowable claim 13 and 15, newly added independent claim 17 includes the limitations of independent claim 1 and allowable dependent claim 14, and newly added independent claim and 22 includes the limitations of independent claim 6 and allowable claim 16. Newly added dependent claims 18-21 and 23-28 respectively correspond to original claims 2-5 and 7-12. Lastly, dependent claims 2-4 have been amended to conform to the recited spray nozzle of independent claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected all pending claims (*i.e.*, claims 1-16) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,269,684 to FISCHER, finding that this reference teaches all limitations of these claims.

As discussed *supra*, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejection. Also as